



# LOW HANGING FRUIT

## Hot Fun in the Summertime

By Allison Floyd

As the world gradually reopens, it's still possible or even probable that Summer 2021 might be a better one for accumulating books on your "Read" shelf than stamps in your passport. On top of that, the usual reasons for educators to promote summer reading apply this year more than ever: it helps combat the summer slide, helps them recover some lost learning from this oddest of odd school years, keeps them entertained, fosters a lifelong love of the written word, et cetera.

"You're preaching to the converted," you might say, "Any bright ideas on how I can promote summer reading to my class?" Why, yes! Check out [this Scholastic article](#) for some great tips (I especially like the suggestion to read the first book of a series as the last read-aloud book of the school year). For further inspiration, check out these [top ten tips](#) for promoting summer reading in the classroom, courtesy of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association. While addressed to school librarians, many of the suggestions could be easily incorporated in the classroom, such as having a public librarian pay your class a visit to promote their library's summer reading program. What a cool idea!

"Maybe I'm being greedy," you might say, "But it sure would be nice to have half a dozen more tips for promoting summer reading, along with a compilation of online articles and relevant websites for the cause." Ask, and [you shall receive](#) (note: a few of the article links appear to be broken, but there's still plenty of good information here, as well as resources for seeking out additional information and ideas)!

Just about everything's more fun when it's a game. There are all kinds of ways to gamify summer reading, including bingo cards and library scavenger hunts. Check out [this website](#) for some examples. You can offer fun prizes as an incentive for students who return to the next school year victorious. Our ever-popular LiLI mood pencils, which you can order [here](#) for the low, low price of free, are always a hit. See which of your students can be the first to collect them all!

However you choose to promote and celebrate summer reading, here's wishing you a restful, restorative summer, full of plenty of good reads of your own!



### LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



#### Find your local public library

ICfL maintains a directory of all libraries of all types in Idaho. Find your local library and learn about its Summer Reading program!

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/idaho-library-directory/>

#### Tails and Tales PSA

This year's summer reading them focuses on animal stories! Check out the super cute PSA!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hJ5J7ay\\_t8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hJ5J7ay_t8)

#### The Summer Reading Imperative

This report from Scholastic includes strong data and talking points to support your conversations with adults on summer reading.

<https://www.scholastic.com/readingreport/summer.html>

### PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



#### Have you heard the big IDEA?

There are many reasons why Idaho students may not have access to a public library in the summer, but you can help! Work with your school librarian or administrator to become part of the Idaho Digital Ebook Alliance through the ICfL and your students will have free access to thousands of ebooks and eaudiobooks, whether or not they use the public library. More than 40 Idaho school districts are already part of the alliance, so check <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idea/> to see if your school district is a member and hook your students up with great books for the summer!



### DIGITAL TOOLS



#### NoveList K-8 Plus

LiLI's go-to resource for all things readers advisory is your one-stop shop for finding your next great read. Search by series, title, and author read-alikes. Use predetermined appeal mixers to find books by preferred tone, pacing, and character type (and more!), or build your own! For additional inspiration, do a search for "summer reading" and then click the Lists & Articles tab that appears with your results.

<https://lili.org/dbs/novelist-plus-k-8/>



